Mr. William R. Klein
500 Glydon Street N.E.
Vienna, Virginia

May 4, 1967

Hon. Jim Garrison
Office of the District Attorney
Criminal District Court Building
Tulane and Broad
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Jim:

Relative to our most recent conversation, I am enclosing the only material I have with respect to the Free Voice of Latin America.

The president of the Free Voice of Latin America was ~~Juan~~ Calixto Garcia, the grandson of the Garcia who received the famous message. I believe that he owned a plantation in Cuba and for one reason or the other left shortly after the Revolution. He was a student at Tulane University and worked part-time in the school cafeteria. Garcia was a mild-mannered, even-tempered fellow.

Otto Hofius was the vice president. He was shy, intelligent, easy-going and I believe a citizen of Belize, Honduras. The last time I heard from him, he was working for the superintendent of schools in New Orleans.

I drew up the Articles of Incorporation and was subsequently appointed secretary-treasurer shortly after the organization was formed. At my request the Free Voice was registered with the FBI in New Orleans.

I have forgotten what office, if any, Bill Dalzell held but his tenure was short-lived. Dalzell was fired for charging office equipment under the corporate name. He was a drifter, more interested in creating impressions than working for a living. For all of these negative qualities, I could not call Dalzell a dangerous man - merely a con-artist and not a very good one at that. On one occasion Dalzell introduced me to Jack Martin. Martin is a kind of manikin seeking involvement. He can contribute nothing to your investigation.

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I met Edward S. Butler during a presentation of the Free Voice at a YMBA meeting. My first impression of this young man was favorable. He seemed aggressive and dynamic; prescisely what the organization needed. Butler turned out to be an incredible organizer and in a few short months he had gotten together a Board composed of prominent New Orleans citizens.

Ed Butler was ultimately asked to leave the Free Voice of Latin America. This young man's ultra right wing views were not only embarrassing but in my opinion, dangerous. After assuming office as Executive Director, this ex-John Bircher metamorphosized into a kind of leashed Robespierre. He could think of nothing but the danger of some kind of globe-encircling communist conspiracy and that it was the primary goal of the Free Voice to forewarn the people of Latin America. His insistance on "exporting" this message abroad made his removal from office mandatory. The true concept of the Free Voice was prepared shortly before Butler left and enclosed herewith. It was written by Clint Bolten, a former editor for Reuters in India.

Our investigation of Butler was untimely but nonetheless appropriate. We learned that he either withdrew or flunked out of 2 schools. (Loyola University, and a private school in Mississippi); that he was a ex-male model for Maison Blanche; a Fuller Brushman; an ex-member of the John Birch Society, and that he was formerly employed by the Perry Brown Advertising Agency. Mr. Brown is an agreeable fellow and should be able to assist you if further information is desired.

In spite of these apparent short-comings, Butler formed his own organization - The Information Counsel of the Americas (ICA) and induced every member of our Board to join his organization. This seduction of our membership arrested the growth of the Free Voice and I finally got around to filing for liquidation with the Secretary of State.

Butler apparently made a tremendous impression on Hale Boggs, much to my surprise and chagrin. He was lauded by Congressman Boggs before the U. S. House of Representatives (Cong. Record 1965) in connection with a "Freedom Academy." I am continually amazed by Butler's orwellian use of conceptual words and for his uncanny ability to impress his screwball definitions on men of high office. I understand that he is now sending messages to Latin America called "Truth Tapes". Butler is one of those people with so little faith in his country that he perceives its imminent downfall. He calls himself an expert on Communism; can quote from the manifesto, but has never heard of the Federalist Papers or the writings of Tocqueville. Butler once told me that fighting Communism was his whole life but conversely, one is never really sure what people like this are defending.

I do not know the present status of INCA, but by November 1965 many prominent citizens of New Orleans were either directly involved with the organization or on its Advisory Board. The social giants of New Orleans have always demonstrated a weird penchant for swapping medals and joining organizations at random providing they can spot one of their own. In the case of INCA, Dr. Alton Ochsner was the Queen Bee. I believe that the Ochsner Foundation is supporting Butler's organization. I suggest that you call the INCA office in New Orleans and ask them for a brochure and a membership list. Butler has the support of the White Citizens Counsel and has spoken before that group.

The Free Voice of Latin America was in no way connected with any other organization. The names you mentioned during our telephone conversation made no impression on me. I cannot, however, speak for the other members of this now defunct organization. The life of the Free Voice as a corporate entity was ephemeral and uneventful. I suppose you could say that its members were naive, inexperienced, and uninspired. For my own part it was an absolute bore. But then again, freshmen lawyers must endure so many things.

Jim, you have come a long way since I first met you. It seems like only yesterday that you stood before my desk in the Schiro Campaign Headquarters, rain water dripping from the lapel of your coat. It would be a terrible waste if the constructive work of your administration were undone by "vaulting ambition" and bad advice. As of this date, I am unimpressed with the strength of the state's case but undoubtedly there are many things that I do not know.

Best of luck.

Cordially yours,

WILLIAM R. KLEIN

Enclosure